

Proposed Topics for the Policy Council for Children and Families (PCCF) 2018 Legislative Report

The below list of proposed topics by PCCF members for the 2018 legislative report will be discussed during the full council meeting (October 2, 2017) in an effort to identify the main points of interest.

Stakeholder feedback on the items listed below or any additional topic suggestions are welcomed.

A. Help for Families:

1. Better access to health care providers and therapy services throughout the state
2. Better access to support services throughout the state
3. Provide support before a child with a disability goes to Child or Adult Protective Services
4. Continuity of services during Health and Human Services transformation
5. Provide behavior therapies, including Applied Behavior Analysis
6. Require thorough background checks on anyone who works with children/youth with disabilities
7. Access to medical marijuana for children it could help
8. Allow families to provide input on how the state facilities are being used

B. Mental Health Issues:

1. Implement Trauma Informed Care to provide appropriate client treatment
2. Statewide and uniform implementation of best practices in children's mental health and suicide risk assessments
3. Provide safe and supportive environments in school for children with mental illness
4. Better coordination between families and Residential Treatment Centers
5. Provide a way to have "Host Families" so children will have more than one home and families will get a break

C. Transition to Adulthood:

1. Transition Guide for students before they leave school
2. Training for students and families on services & benefits at age 18 and 21
3. Require medical transition planning for students with medical conditions

4. Promote employment and work with companies in the community to find employment
5. Promote independent living with community support and transition services
6. Certified family partner services and peer supports for families

D. Education:

1. Fully fund Special Education Services
2. Provide equal education to children in Special Education
3. Peer to peer support for children with disabilities

E. Funding Challenges - should the Legislature provide more funding for:

1. Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Program
2. Funding for Medicaid Waivers so children can grow up in a family
3. Reimbursement cuts for therapy rates paid by Medicaid
4. Respite care
5. Increase attendant care wages and rates
6. Helping families of children with disabilities during a crisis
7. Mental health services for children, including supports for their families
8. Promoting Independence initiatives for children

F. STAR Kids, Medicaid Managed Care Program:

1. Standardize the prior authorization process
2. Nursing care provided at school to be directed by family, not Home Health Agencies
3. Create a process to monitor problems and report to state rather than the state monitoring

G. Awareness Programs:

1. Guidance from a family perspective for ECI versus private insurance services
2. Including grandparents into the systems for support services
3. Children Mental Health Awareness
4. Support and strategies for suicide prevention
5. Support and strategies to prevent substance abuse, including opioids
6. Zika, nutrition, food allergies awareness
7. Pilot program to fund family restrooms, providing large changing table so youth don't have to be changed on the floor
8. Create a dictionary on the terms used around children with disabilities
9. Description of the difference in referrals to Children's Protective Services and Adult Protective Services
10. Description of how the Foster Care Redesign will affect children with disabilities